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NSC BRIEFING

6 January 1959

Viet Minh
I. ~~Communist~~ (North Vietnam) (~~DRV~~) has stepped up its campaign of military and propaganda pressures against Laos designed to restrain elements planning to impose strong anti-Communist ^{is} government with full powers.

Viet Minh
A. ~~DRV~~ Premier Pham Van Dong's message of 28 December protesting alleged Laotian violations of ~~DRV~~ frontiers and airspace is ~~the~~ latest in ~~a~~ series of such notes since 13 October.

B. Pham ~~seized on a 5 Jan. Laotian offer to negotiate border problem by~~ demanding high level conference to discuss

"all outstanding issues."

Viet Minh
C. ~~DRV~~ patrols have frequently crossed ~~the~~ ^{indisputed area} frontier since 1 October and currently ^{300 men} ~~three platoons~~ are occupying ^{two} ~~a~~ positions ^{just} ~~about 5 kilometers~~ inside Laos. ~~Southeastern frontier.~~

II. In building border tension, ~~DRV may be making a case for the return of the International Control Commission (ICC) to Laos.~~

A. Prince Souphannouvong, Chief of Laos' ^{communist front party} ~~Communist-dominated Patriotic Front (NHE)~~ said to believe ICC only means to prevent US from carrying out aims in Laos.

1. This possible reference to American efforts to play active role in training Lao army.

Viet Minh
B. Other reports indicate Poles and ~~DRV~~ lobbying in contacts with ICC Hanoi to reactivate Laos ICC.


Viet Minh
III. There is as yet no information that ~~DRV~~ ^{is} preparing to intervene in strength in Laos.

at time when rightists plan takeover of Laotian govt, *Viet Minh* may also be making ^{attempts to forestall such event;}

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Laos commies
IV. However, ~~NHIZ~~ extremely apprehensive over governmental repression and are circulating rumors that ~~DRV~~ ^{Viet Minh} will intervene in event of coup.

- 25X1C
- A.  ^{commies} reports indicate ~~NHIZ~~ partisans in ~~the~~ north are moving families to North Vietnam border in preparation for clandestine operations.
- B. Former Pathet Lao ~~(PL)~~ battalion at Plaine des Jarres ~~is~~ reported preparing for clandestine evacuation of weapons to unidentified base in preparation for return to armed dissidence.
1. Three fully armed ~~PL~~ ^{Viet Minh} platoons moving toward Laos border on 26 December in area where the ~~PL~~ ^{Pathet Lao} battalion could be expected to regroup.

V. Laotian Prime Minister Phoui Sananikone apparently undismayed by combined ~~internal + external~~ ^{internal + external commies} pressures, plans to assume full powers and impose strong gov~~ernment~~ at special session of National Assembly on 10 January.